

Seating arrangements

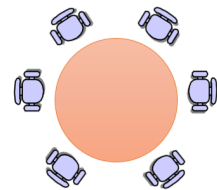
A communicative task

Instructions

You will do this task with one or two of your fellow participants. Please take a maximum of **two** minutes to read these instructions before discussing the task with your partner(s).

Then give yourselves **ten** minutes to solve the problem, which is:

Six language teachers are going to meet each other at a staff dinner in a restaurant. They will be seated at a round table. Their names, the languages they speak and their views of language learning are listed overleaf.



There are three rules:

1. No two men or two women can sit next to one another. This language school is mired in binary gender thinking ...
2. Teachers with **opposing views of language learning** cannot sit together. There are too many arguments in the staffroom already.
3. People must be able to speak at least one of the languages of the person on **each** side of them.

How will you seat them? Who will sit next to whom? You can make a drawing and write notes if it helps.

Remember, it will be a round table, so the first and last people on your list will be seated next to one another.

Armand Allegre

- A former French chef turned language teacher after being fired from a top St Petersburg restaurant.
- Learned Russian while working in the kitchen
- Adopts an approach in which almost all his lessons consist of students describing their favourite recipes to each other, but only after doing a Kahoot with the day's set of cooking verbs and ingredients. Students quite enjoy this but are always left hungry at the end.

Webb Traverse

- American teacher of English
- Can speak some Catalan too, and a little French and German
- Has learned Catalan with a private teacher who insists on learning through conversation. However Webb, not wishing to offend his teacher (who he fancies), spends his evenings drilling himself on verb conjugations and weak pronoun patterns, as he is sure that this is the best way to make progress.

Paola Majistral

- Maltese, but teaches Portuguese.
- Can also speak Catalan, Spanish and German
- Paola largely follows traditional Portuguese coursebooks in her classes as they make planning easy. But over the years, she has become less convinced that this is working well for her students. She can't understand why all the exercises on the pluperfect tense are not resulting in the students using it well.

Dally Rideout

- Canadian-born with a German mother, teaches French
- Has a good grasp of conversational German and fluent English
- Was inspired by immersion programmes in Canada where grammar teaching was abandoned. Loves to flood her students with input, which they seem to enjoy, but then they score badly on the end-of-term grammar tests set by the school

Yashmeen Halfcourt

- Doesn't like to say where she's from.
- Amazingly fluent in Armenian, Portuguese, Arabic, English, Russian and Japanese.
- Is a strict follower of the lexical approach; instead of grammar exercises, her students study lots of useful 'chunks' then attempt to use them in conversations. Sadly, no one seems to remember as many as Yashmeen can.

Joaquim Stick

- Catalan teacher of Spanish and Catalan
- Picked up German while raving in Berlin during his university studies
- Inspired by Scott Thornbury's 'Dogme' approach, Joaquim likes conversation-driven classes where the topics come from the students, and rarely uses a coursebook. Has a number of private students, including Webb Traverse.